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Message Text

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 05280 011432Z

47
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 SAM-01

OMB-01 SCCT-01 SSM-05 IO-13 ACDA-10 /098 W
---------- 094344
R 011005Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5454
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

UNCLAS JIDDA 5280

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, LE, SA
SUBJECT: SAUDI CABINET STATEMENT ON LEBANON

REF: JIDDA 5271

1. FOLLOWING THE REGULAR CABINET SESSION ON SATURDAY, JULY 31, THE SAG ISSUED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT ON LEBANON WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO THE SITUATION IN TAL ZAATAR CAMP: "THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA, IN SPITE OF THE KILLING, DESTRUCTION AND TRAGEDY WHICH IS OCCURING IN LEBANON AND WHICH HAS CLAIMED THE LIVES OF INNOCENT AND DEFENSELESS PEOPLE, HAS REFRAINED FROM

INTERFERING IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF OUR BROTHERLY COUNTRY LEBANON. WE HAVE LEFT THE SOLUTION TO THE CONFLICT TO SINCERE AND LOYAL LEBANESE TO SOLVE THE CONFLICT AMONG THEMSELVES. HOWEVER IT IS NOW NO LONGER POSSIBLE TO REMAIN SILENT TO THAT WHICH THE WOUNDED IN THE TAL ZAATAR CAMP ARE SUBJECTED. THE WOUNDED ARE WITHOUT CARE; WOMEN, CHILDREN AND THE AGED CANNOT BE
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RESCUED; AND THE CAMP HAS BEEN TURNED INTO A LIVING

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HELL. THIS SITUATION CANNOT POSSIBLY BE TOLERATED BY ANY PERSON WHO HAS ONE IOTA OF COMPASSION, MERCY OR HUMANITY. (PARA) THEREFORE, WE APPEAL TO ALL PARTIES CONCERNED TO HALT THE BLOODSHED AND SEE TO THE RESCUE OF THE WOUNDED OUT OF HUMANITARIAN CONSIDERATIONS AND TO PUT ASIDE GRUDGES AND HATRED IN FAVOR OF MERCY FOR THE SICK AND THE WEAK."

2. COMMENT: THE STRONGLY WORDED--BY SAUDI STANDARDS--STATEMENT IS SIMILAR TO A PERSONAL STATEMENT MADE BY KING KHALID LAST SPRING DURING A PARTICULARLY SANGUINARY PERIOD OF THE CIVIL WAR. THE PRESENT STATEMENT, WHILE CAREFULLY "NEUTRAL" WAS PROBABLY INFLUENCED BY THE RECENT VISIT OF KHALID AL HASSAN (REFTEL) AND BY THE PLEA OF THE SWEDISH DOCTOR IN TAL ZAATAR--WELL PUBLICIZED HERE--FOR RELIEF OF THE CAMP LEST 30,000 DIE OF THIRST.
PORTER

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Disposition Event:
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